

A Letter.

Dunkirke, Novemb. 19th. 1688.

Dear Sir,

Since my landing at *New-Port*, I went to see *Ostend*, where I delivered your Letter to Mr. *H---lton*, who hath paid me the money you order'd me to receive, and when you write to him, pray return him thanks for all his favours; I found him a civil Gentleman, and a moderate Papist. At *New-Port*, I met with a Relation at the Nunnery who would not acknowledge the Family, but the reason of her escape was on a Love account. Here I have been a Week, and have kept my self from any *English* Company, except Mr. *H---ford*, for indeed, I have little satisfaction to see things threaten so much our ruine, as now they do, if things be true as reported from *London*: And this King has again solemnly sworn, That he will hazard his Kingdom, rather than suffer the name of a Protestant to be in *Europe*. I was at Dinner at *Monsieur Jacques Platt's* House, where was a Gentleman newly come from *Paris*, and he reports that the King was much enraged upon the news that the Prince of *Orange* was Landed, saying, That he was resolved to give no Quarter to any Protestants; and I am credibly informed, that the new Converts are order'd to be put a Board the Fleet. I was to see the Risband here, which is one of the best Fortifications that I did ever see; and indeed, the charge of the Fortifications of this City, Cittadel and Port, cannot be equalled. The Port reaches above half a mile, defended with two Forts at the entrance; and now, above two hundred Vessels may be secure. Though as yet the War is not Proclaimed, here are several *Dutch* Vessels taken, and the poor Mariners are most hardly dealt with, being kept close Prisoners. Many Privateers are fitting out here, and they force the *Dutch* Mariners to go aboard to get them in readines. I am almost affrighted to proceed any further into *France*, for fear of being seized as some Gentlemen have lately been, and most barbarously used, so as now I will omit going to *St. Omers*, resolving to tarry here and at *Furne*, till I have your answer. Pray give my Salutes to all Friends, and let me hear from you by the next Post. I am

Your Faithful Humble Servant

R. S.

P. S. The Post being gone, I resolve to send this by an Honest Master of a Ship, who has promised to deliver it into your own Hands, with a small Token which I have sent you: and now I have to add, That the King of *France* hath Proclaimed Wars with *Holland*; and Orders are given out, That all the Prisoners who will not abjure their Religion, shall be sent to *Marseglia*, to be put into the Gallies. It would make any heart relent to hear of the Cruelties they have used to several already taken; most fear he will give no Quarter in *Holland*, so inveterated is he against the Protestants; and was heard to say, That if the people of *England* should joyn with the Prince of *Orange* for a Parliament, he would burn every *Englishman*, that was in his Country, alive. I am now going to *New-Port*, in Company with one *Monsieur Van Susteren*, of *Bridges*, who is a very able Merchant, and has promised me his Protection there; from whence I will write to you more at large. I have only to add, that the Master of the Vessel is a very Honest Man, and I will be glad if you can serve him in his Employ. Pray my Service to Sir *J. W.* and rest of the Clubb. Again adieu

25th of Novem-
ber, 1688.

R. S.